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Graham Knaus

February 25, 2021

Dear Members of the California Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), I'm writing to request that you consider cosponsoring the *Fixing America's Bridges Act* (HR 1299). This important piece of legislation would accomplish a longtime objective of California counties, which is the restoration of the Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program (HBRRP) as a core FHWA formula program.

California's local governments are responsible for maintaining a vast surface transportation network. All told, counties and cities own and maintain more than 144,000 centerline miles of local streets and roads – or more than 85 percent of the state's road system. Furthermore, over 12,100 bridges, or almost half the bridges in California, are owned and maintained by local governments.

According to the American Road and Transportation Builders Association's most recent report on annual bridge conditions, seven percent of the bridges in California are classified as structurally deficient (27th worst in the country). All told, the state has identified needed repairs on 2,006 bridges at an estimated cost of \$8.8 billion.

Reestablishing the HBRRP would help ensure that states and local governments have additional, dedicated funding to repair and replace deficient bridges. Additionally, under HR 1299, *all* eligible bridge projects would have a 90 percent federal cost share (up from the typical 80 percent federal contribution). The legislation also would increase the set-aside for bridges that are not located on a federal-aid highway, which would help ensure that locally owned off-system bridges receive much-needed funding.

Again, CSAC urges you to consider cosponsoring HR 1299 and to make restoration of the HBRRP a top priority for the upcoming reauthorization of the *FAST Act*. If you have any questions or if you need any additional information, please contact Joe Krahn, CSAC Federal Representative, Paragon Government Relations at (202) 898-1444.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'GKnaus', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Graham Knaus
CSAC Executive Director